

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /037 R

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APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

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R 281652Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, LI (TOLBERT, PRESIDENT WILLIAM R.)

SUBJECT: TOLBERT STATE VISIT: WASHINGTON WRAP-UP

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND PARTY COMPLETED WASHINGTON PORTION OF VISIT SEPTEMBER 24 AND PROCEEDED ON SCHEDULE TO ATLANTA THAT AFTERNOON. HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT IN WASHINGTON INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND WHITE HOUSE STATE DINNER, LIBERIAN RETURN RECEPTION AT ANDERSON HOUSE, SPEECH BEFORE JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS, AND STATE DEPARTMENT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY ACTING SECRETARY ROBINSON.

2. WHITE HOUSE DINNER WENT VERY SMOOTHLY, AND LIBERIANS WERE VERY PLEASED BY WARMTH OF THEIR RECEPTION. ANDERSON HOUSE WAS SITE OF RECEPTION FOR 2-300 GUESTS AT RETURN RECEPTION GIVEN BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. TOLBERT. PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD ATTENDED AND MET WITH TOLBERTS PRIVATELY IN SEPARATE ROOM FOR PERHAPS TWENTY MINUTES. PLAQUE FROM LIBERIAN ORE WAS PRESENTED WITHOUT CEREMONIES AT THIS TIME.

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3. TOLBERT'S SPEECH BEFORE CONGRESS, DELAYED 30 MINUTES BY FILIBUSTER IN SENATE, WAS FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OF TWO KEY AREAS OF LIBERIAN CONCERN--SOUTHERN AFRICA AND

U.S. ASSISTANCE. TOLBERT INFORMED CONGRESS THAT BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA NO LONGER WILLING PASSIVELY TO WAIVE THEIR RIGHTS AND CALLED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT. HE ALSO CALLED FOR U.S. AID EXPENDITURES TO INCREASE AT LEAST PROPORTIONATELY WITH EXPENDITURES FOR ARMS, AND ASKED CONGRESS TO MOVE TOWARD UN GOAL OF EQUIVALENT OF ONE PERCENT GNP BEING DEVOTED TO FOREIGN AID.

4. STATE DEPARTMENT LUNCHEON ON SEPTEMBER 24 WAS HOSTED BY ACTING SECRETARY ROBINSON WHO SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY BUT USED PREPARED REMARKS TO OUTLINE AID PACKAGE EXTENDED LIBERIANS. CONTENTS OF TEXT WILL BE GIVEN LIBERIANS FOR THEIR USE.

ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE240764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESVENDSEN:JWM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-0935
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760911/aaaaajdb.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOLBERT STATE VISIT: WASHINGTON WRAP-UP
TAGS: OVIP, LI, (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R)
To: MONROVIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006